(c) During the last one year following approvals have been given to scheduled airlines to import aircraft :—

M/s. Jet Airways:

2	B-737-800	
2	B-737-800	(replacement)

M/s. Sahara Airlines:

7	EMB-120	(turbo-prop aircraft)
4	B-737-400	(replacement)
1	B-737-700	(replacement)

(d) Compliance of safety measures/Airworthiness requirements as stipulated in the various CARs by the private scheduled operators is monitored by the DGCA. Spot checks and regular periodic surveillance are carried out on operational and maintenance aspects of these leased aircraft so that there is no let down in safety or airworthiness/operation standards at any time of operation.

Handing Over of ATC Services to Indian AIR Force

†2616. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1979 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th March,2000 and state :

(a) whether Government have considered the proposal to hand over the management of Air Traffic services of Mumbai and Delhi Airports to the Indian Air Force; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Memorandum of Construction of International Airport At Ludhiana

†2617. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:—Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Non-Resident Indians have made a demand to construct an international airport in Ludhiana;

† Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether any memorandum in this regard has been sent to the Government by MPs and the State Government; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and by when international flights are likely to be started from Ludhiana?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. However, due to non-availability of sufficient land and lack of demand from airlines for international operations through Ludhiana, AAI has no plan, at present, to upgrade Ludhiana Airport as international airport.

SANGHYA VAHINI PROJECT

2618. SHRI MD. SALIM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item 'Sanghya Vahini controversy may generate heat' as published in the Observer dated 14th March, 2000.

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether DoT has signed MoU with IUNET for setting up the JV when IUNET did not legally exit, as alleged; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and if not the actual status of the company as on 16th October, 1998 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The issues highlighted in the said published report have been examined by the Government before proceeding further with the project.

(c) and (d) Carnegie Mellon University owned the name IUNet Inc. on the date of signing of MoU i.e. 16th October, 1998. The Articles of incorporation were signed on January 6, 1999 and filed on 8th January, 1999.

As per established corporate custom in US, the corporation, once its name is reserved, starts business under that name for negotiation and developing business even before the Articles of Incorporation are signed and filed with Department of State. Dr. Reddy signed the MoU, both as a Chairman of